



Frequently Asked Questions about Ina A. Colen Academy

Question	Fact
Is <i>On Top of the World Communities</i> starting an elementary school?	The Colen Family Charitable Trust is establishing a K-8 charter school in the new master-planned community called Calesa Township. The school will be overseen by an independent non-profit governing board.
When is the school opening?	August of 2022.
Is the Ina A. Colen Academy a private school?	The Ina A. Colen Academy is a public charter school. Charter Schools are not private schools. They are tuition-free public schools that operate in accordance with a 'charter contract issued by the local school district.
What are the grades offered?	We will begin the 2022 school year with grades K-6 and add a grade each year. 2023 will have grades K-7 and by 2024 we will have grades K-8.
Will you hire certified teachers?	Yes. In the state of Florida, teachers employed by a charter school must be certified as required by law. If they aren't certified in the grade level they are teaching, they will be required to hold a temporary certificate and obtain a permanent one within the same year.
How do I enroll my child?	Applications will be available on our website at www.iacafl.org beginning on October 1.
If I live in Calesa are my children guaranteed a spot in the school?	Florida Statute allows 50% of the seats in the school to be reserved for Calesa Township residents and the remaining seats filled through a lottery process from all other applicants. It is our intent that IACA will have space for any Calesa students who wish to enroll.
Will the school have a lottery?	A lottery will be conducted if there are more applications than there are seats available for a given grade level. As stated above, Calesa

	residents will be given priority and the remaining applicants will be placed in a lottery.
How many students will you have in the first year?	We have projected 214 students in year 1 for grades K-6; however since the facility will be built out to almost full capacity, we may increase the enrollment number based on demand. Ultimately, the school will hold 982 students in grades K-8.
What is the curriculum focus?	The school's whole child approach has three interrelated components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality standards-based instruction with the supports needed for all students to be successful; • Focus on student Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and physical health and well-being of students and staff; and • Hands-on, student driven project-based learning (PBL) approach to instruction.
How many students per teacher?	We will follow the Florida class size requirements which are an average of 18 students per classroom in grades K-3 and an average of 22 students per classroom in grades 4-8.
Will you have a VPK program?	We will not have one at the school as of right now. We are exploring options for a VPK program or partnership with a program that we will have an articulation agreement with in the future.
Will siblings of current (accepted students) be automatically accepted?	Yes.
What extracurricular activities will be offered? i.e., dance, physical education, music, recess, etc.?	We will offer physical education and take a survey of students and identify what activities the students are interested in and offer activities aligned with interests. We are building a music and chorus room and anticipate offering those programs as well.
Will you offer transportation?	We will send out a survey to parents once we get the students enrolled as to whether or not they need transportation. We are considering a "drop off" place where we will send a bus or van to pick up and drop off students. We are still exploring options at this time.
Will you offer before and after care?	Yes, we are currently looking at options for before and after care and as we get closer to school opening we will have more information about programs, cost, etc. We will also survey students and families to align our programs with interests.
Will there be specific programs offered for Gifted Students?	The nature of PBL and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) address gifted students. However, if a student is identified as Gifted, we will implement the Educational Plan

	(EP) as written. We will also have a teacher who is Gifted endorsed.
Will uniforms be required?	Yes, and we will have a variety of options for families to choose from.
How will you attract good/experienced teachers?	We will recruit teachers and make sure that all teachers understand our educational model and they are willing to implement it. We believe because of our focus on SEL and culture of all, we will attract teachers who want to work in a school that allows them to grow as an individual and professional.
Will you serve students who have an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan?	Yes. As a public school, IACA will serve a diverse population of students with varying needs, including students with disabilities who require special education services and accommodations.
Will you offer sports or clubs?	Yes. We plan to offer both sports and clubs and we will select them based on student interest.
Will you have a high school?	We are planning to expand to grades 9-12 in the future and anticipate having a high school for our 8th graders to go to.
Will there be virtual learning classes available in case students can't return to school safely?	We will follow the Marion County school district guidance as it relates to options for learning. We will be monitoring the continuity plans on virtual learning and brick and mortar learning and will communicate with parents once it gets closer to school opening. We have been pro-active with the facility to support healthy choices. We have built sinks in every classroom and have hand sanitizing stations throughout the school.
What happens after I submit my application?	Our enrollment period is between October 1-February 15th. Once the first application period is over, we will run the lottery (if necessary) and parents will be notified via email or text message about their child's status. Parents will have a set number of days to "accept" their seat, and then 7 days to "enroll" their student by providing the required documentation. We will be using an automated system called "Lotterease" that will provide instant notifications to parents on the status of their child's application.
What if I am applying to a Marion County Choice option? Can I still apply to your school?	Absolutely. IACA's application is separate from the Marion County choice application and you are permitted to apply to both. We have aligned our application timeline with theirs so that parents can make the best decision for their child once they have all of the information about what schools are options.